

victim is subject not just simply to sexual assault but to other crimes in that incident, all those crimes are to be tried together. So the need to import crimes like murder and arson and other nonsexual related crimes is, in my view, not going to accomplish the goals that I think this Senate has been focused on, particularly over the last 6 months or so.

I intend to include the administration's proposals in next week's markup at the annual Defense bill, subject to amendment. I think that is important to know—subject to amendment, that the UC as proposed would not allow amendments. It would not allow colleagues on the floor to come up and say: I have a better idea. We will do that in the committee, as we have always done it in the committee or at least tried to do it in the committee.

I look forward to working with Senator GILLIBRAND and my other colleagues in the committee as we consider, debate, and vote on this and other proposals, but I still must reiterate my objection to the unanimous consent request.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. First of all, our bill is entitled "Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act," so, as the chairman has requested, there is a great deal of prevention in this bill. And I dare say, if the chairman was going to include all of the recommendations of the IRC, we would have a very strong base bill on which to work from, but I do not have the sense that that will be done. In fact, I do not have the sense that all the recommendations are being considered, so I intend to offer an amendment that encompasses all of the recommendations.

Second, the reason why murder and other serious crimes must be included is because there are two challenges within the military: One, sexual assault cases are not handled properly, and unfortunately too few go to trial and too few end in conviction. The rate of going to trial and the rate of conviction has gone down.

The second reason is, if you only allow sexual assault cases to have a proper review, you will further marginalize survivors of sexual assault, who, more often than not, are women who report those cases, because receiving special treatment and a special legal system will not create fairness within the military for them.

Third, there is enormous evidence in the last 3 years of considerable racial bias against Black and Brown servicemembers. In the marines, if you are a Black man, you are up to 2.6 times more likely to be punished. That is a serious problem, and this is an issue that has been investigated for a long time.

So I believe that the bright line of felonies, as our allies have already done in the UK, Israel, Canada, Netherlands, Germany, and Australia, is meaningful because they did it for defendants' rights, they did it to professionalize their military justice system, and they did it to protect all servicemembers. Servicemembers in the U.S. military deserve nothing less.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTH SUDAN

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the 10th anniversary of South Sudan's independence. July 9 is a bittersweet day for the resilient people of South Sudan. For decades, South Sudanese fought a brutal war with the government in Khartoum in which 2 million people lost their lives. After decades of bloody struggle, the parties to the conflict signed the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, CPA, which provided for self-determination for the South and paved the way for South Sudan's independence in 2011, with the diplomatic support of the United States and others in the international community.

Yet the promise of South Sudan's independence has turned into tragedy. Deep fault lines that emerged during the country's long struggle for independence, accentuated by rivalry and rent seeking among the country's corrupt political elite, brought about catastrophe. A little over 2 years after independence, 400,000 people were killed and more than 4 million were displaced during the 5-year civil war between forces loyal President Salva Kiir against those aligned with Vice-President Riek Machar. Unspeakable atrocities were committed against civilians during the conflict, including women and children. In 2017, the war induced a famine that brought hundreds of thousands more to the brink of disaster.

The United States and its international partners have invested heavily in diplomatic efforts to support and

end to the conflict in South Sudan. Despite failed cease-fire agreements and the intransigence of the warring parties, in 2018 regional leaders working through the InterGovernmental Authority on Development, IGAD, were finally able to obtain agreement on what was called the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan, R-ARCSS. Although far from ideal, the agreement lays out a framework for a peaceful resolution of the conflict, political reform, and democratic transition.

But implementation of the agreement remains slow, and South Sudan sits at a very dangerous crossroad. Responsible parties have failed to implement major provisions of the R-ARCSS, including those on power-sharing, constitutional development, security sector reform, economic issues, and transitional justice, or have reneged on their commitments. Nonsignatories to the R-ARCSS continue to wage an active insurgency, particularly in Equatoria. Locally rooted communal violence is also rampant, fueled by the invisible hand of rival national political elites. Kiir's security apparatus continues to violate the human, civil, and political rights of the South Sudanese people. Overlaying all of these problems is an urgent humanitarian crisis—driven by conflict induced food insecurity, displacement, and COVID-19—made all the more worse by longstanding efforts by the Government of South Sudan to undercut humanitarian access.

It is clear that South Sudan's stalled peace process needs a reboot. The lack of progress on implementation of the R-ARCSS has created significant concern about elections now slated for 2022—if they are even held. And if they are held, without prior implementation of core components of the agreement and other key actions, the polls could be a flash point for conflict and violence.

In order to prevent this outcome, South Sudanese leadership, the United States, and international partners must take urgent action.

Political leadership in Juba must immediately organize a process for robust and inclusive negotiations over a new constitution in a process that involves all South Sudanese stakeholders, including civil society and holdout rebel groups. While I would not presume to dictate what the South Sudanese people themselves might decide, it seems to me that devolution of power from the national government to the states and local administration, and genuine power-sharing at the national level are necessary ingredients to avoid the winner-take-all calculus that has served as an incentive to take and hold on to central power at any cost.

Regional neighbors must act as well. Ongoing instability in East Africa, including the war in Tigray, a fragile transition in Sudan, and political turmoil in Somalia, has distracted regional actors who traditionally engage

on South Sudan issues. This must change. Capitols in Africa, working through the African Union, AU, and IGAD, must ensure that peace in South Sudan is at the top of the agenda for policymakers. Working with the Europeans and other partners, the United States should actively support the efforts of the African stakeholders to rehabilitate South Sudan's broken peace process.

The United States also has a prominent role to play. The relationship between South Sudan and the United States runs deep. For decades the United States has been the leading donor to South Sudan, including major contributions from U.S. civil society. U.S. diplomacy has long supported the South Sudanese cause and was critical to the signing of the CPA. After independence, the United States remained firmly engaged in supporting South Sudan, both through its bilateral engagement and participation in the Troika. That tradition must continue and there is no time to waste. I encourage the Biden administration to take four steps:

First, appoint an experienced Ambassador to South Sudan, someone who has served as an Ambassador in the region who is familiar with the history of the relationship.

Second, the administration should pursue additional bilateral and multilateral sanctions on South Sudanese political actors where needed, including on those who obstruct the delivery of humanitarian aid. In that same vein, it should support the continuation of the U.N. arms embargo and regularly name parties that violate the embargo and hold them accountable.

Third, the corruption that has long fueled South Sudan's political crisis must be confronted head on. The United States and its partners must demand full transparency from the Government of South Sudan on its oil accounts: the international community must know what revenue is coming in and what expenditures are being made. Kiir's foot-dragging on public financial management has persisted for years; it is well past time that Juba face consequences. The United States must use its voice and vote at international financial institutions to oppose all budget support to the Government of South Sudan and urge an end to all programs that do not directly benefit the health and welfare of the South Sudanese people until and unless the government is willing to open its books to donors and, more importantly, the South Sudanese people.

Finally, ending the cycle of conflict and despair in South Sudan will require accountability for past crimes and atrocities. The lesson of 8 years of conflict in South Sudan is that progress is impossible in a climate of impunity. Yet, despite support to the AU Hybrid Court for South Sudan from the United States and other donors, the AU has failed to fulfill its responsibilities, and the Hybrid Court re-

mains in limbo. Justice delayed is justice denied. With our allies in tow, the Biden administration must make clear to relevant stakeholders at the AU and in Juba that further delay on the issue of transitional justice is unacceptable. If these parties do not act, the Biden administration should work with allies to pursue alternative justice and accountability mechanisms.

Mr. President, I congratulate the people of South Sudan on this milestone. Their independence was hard won. I only wish their leaders had treated them better. At this critical moment, the United States must stand with all South Sudanese in their pursuit of justice, democracy, and equitable development.

TRIBUTE TO TODD CROUCH

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service of Todd Crouch, my director of state operations, who retired from my office and the U.S. Senate on June 30, 2021.

Todd has spent nearly 22 years as a valued member of my staff. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Todd first joined my State assembly staff in 1997 as an intern. By a stroke of luck on both of our parts, Todd was assigned to my office to complete his coursework. He would later tell me that he didn't know much about me and my work in the assembly but had heard that I was smart, hard-working, and a good listener. I quickly learned that I could say the same about Todd.

After my election to the U.S. House of Representatives in late 1998, Todd joined my office as a field representative. Todd worked directly to serve constituents in our Madison area district, visiting organizations and businesses and serving as my representative at countless community events. He set up listening sessions through the district and staffed me at those events. Some listening sessions presented special and occasionally dramatic challenges. Todd nimbly navigated us through the occasional unexpected attendee with creativity and good humor.

In 2001, Todd transitioned to a role as our district office manager and district scheduler. This dual role highlighted some of Todd's greatest skills. An organized and methodical scheduler, he handled sticky situations with great care, including delayed flights, last minute cancellations, and many competing demands on limited time. He ran our district offices with a close attention to detail, ensuring their smooth operation and providing our State staff with a steady hand to turn to when trouble arose.

Todd remained in this dual role until my election to the U.S. Senate in 2012. I was fortunate to have Todd continue on my U.S. Senate staff. Initially serving as my Madison office director, which had expanded far beyond the size of our district office, Todd's role even-

tually grew to encompass all of our State operations. He managed our offices in Madison, Milwaukee, La Crosse, Eau Claire, and Green Bay, as well as our mobile office, affectionately known to us as The Beast. Todd later added several additional support roles, including two short stints as a pinch-hitter State scheduler, as well as coordinating our Grants and Special Projects portfolio.

Outside of the office, Todd is a devoted husband and father. He and his husband James Bond are the proud parents of their energetic young sons, Derrion and SJ. Todd and James are also longtime committed foster parents who have an open door to a welcoming and loving home.

I am fortunate to have had Todd as a valued member of my staff for these past many years, and I know that my staff, both past and present, feel the same. He has a sneaky and delightful sense of humor, which often helps relieve a tense or difficult situation. He is diligent in his approach to his work and to public service and leads by example. Along with my entire U.S. Senate staff, I wish him all the best as he begins a new chapter with his well-deserved retirement.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GLC MINERALS

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of GLC Minerals, a fifth-generation, family owned company that has contributed to the growth and success of the city of Green Bay and Northeast Wisconsin since 1871.

Wisconsin's indigenous Tribes lived in this area for thousands of years and recognized the strategic importance of the bay of Green Bay. The confluence of river and lake contributed to the success of their thriving communities.

In 1634 the first European explorer, Jean Nicolet, arrived on the shores of Green Bay, and the development of this city on our country's western frontier was launched. As the community of what is now greater Green Bay grew, eager, hard-working settlers with an entrepreneurial spirit arrived to build an economy rooted in iron smelting, timber, and cheesemaking. Fred Hurlbut, Sr., was one of these industrious settlers and in 1871 established the Hurlbut Calcium and Chemical Company.

The generations that followed honored the vision of Fred Hurlbut, Sr., and as the economy grew and changed, so did the company. In 1940, the company moved to the shores of the Fox River. In 2015, the business received its final name change to GLC Minerals. And today, as we celebrate the 150th anniversary, GLC Minerals remains an anchor of our Green Bay community as a successful manufacturer of calcium and magnesium carbonate products used in animal feed, mineral fillers, pollution filters, and soil conditioners.

Mr. President, in Wisconsin, we make things. We are known for our brats and